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4 January 1961

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION NO. 1

PARTICIPANTS: Messrs. Jackson (for the last part)

Armstrong  
Kirkpatrick  
Reber

SUBJECT: President's Daily Summary

1. Mr. Kirkpatrick explained to Mr. Armstrong Mr. Jackson's intentions with regard to developing a strong Daily Intelligence Summary for the President in place of the existing Daily Summary which is judged to be inadequate. Mr. Kirkpatrick explained the present plan for developing O/SI and the inclusion in that area of a current intelligence staff. The question at issue was: In such a setup can arrangements be made with the State Department comparable to those now existing with D/Pub. (Jack Smith) for the provision of highly sensitive State Department cables? Mr. Kirkpatrick explained that their continued availability to the Office of National Estimates was very important and that Mr. Jackson would want nothing done which would jeopardize O/NE's access to the cables in question.

2. Mr. Armstrong endorsed the idea of developing a current intelligence Summary for the President explaining the hazards which he saw in any attempt at summarizing operations, policy, or policy developments. He recognized the need on occasion for the inclusion of such material in order to make the intelligence summary read meaningfully. He indicated that Mr. Barnes in the State Department who had responsibility for the control of these sensitive telegrams would be very much concerned that any arrangement, which CIA thought necessary to provide the projected summary, should insure the same security as in the past. It was important, he emphasized, that many of these telegrams should be seen by a very limited number of people. He said this in fact is the arrangement within the State Department itself. He also said that Barnes probably would favor the development of the Summary along the lines Mr. Kirkpatrick indicated.

3. Mr. Jackson's comments when he entered the room were in line with the foregoing. There was a brief discussion of the problem of making a change because of the President's wishes as they have been understood in the past. It was the consensus that the approach to this problem would probably be best to develop the kind of summary that the DCI thought was proper and useful and merely indicate to the President that this was an effort to improve his summary. Further action on this was assigned to Mr. Reber for consultation with Mr. Barnes.

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